

that you get a lot of in Washington, but he was filled with pride for his work, the work of FSA employees, and American agriculture. He would always articulate the importance of these to me in the most clear, concise, and endearing terms. Meeting with him was always a pleasure as he carried a calmness about him that always reminded me of the best of Arkansas. Much like many Arkansans I know, he possessed a kind heart and a gentle spirit always putting others before him. He earned my enduring respect and admiration. I will remember him for his optimistic spirit, enjoyable personality, and humble and effective leadership.

It is with great sadness, that I come before the Senate today, but I know he has gone to a better place, and deservedly so. I am honored to have known him and worked with him during his time on Earth. I send his wife Dana and their two children my deepest condolences. Morris O'Quin will certainly be missed, but he will never be forgotten. I ask my colleagues to keep the O'Quin family, Morris's coworkers, and his friends in your thoughts and prayers in this most difficult time.●

VERMONT CELEBRATES ITS LEADERS IN LABOR RIGHTS

● Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I wish to rise today to honor two Vermont businesses, Chroma Technology Corporation and Seventh Generation, which have been named to the 2009 List of Most Democratic Workplaces. This list, compiled by the labor rights organization WorldBlu, selects the gold standard in fair labor practices each year.

By creating incentives for workers to constructively participate in the governance of their company, Chroma Technology Corporation of Rockingham, VT, exemplifies the ideal of the Most Democratic Workplace. With a decentralized power structure, and with every worker eligible to become a member of the board of directors, employees genuinely play a major role in business decisions and company practices. Moreover, Chroma is 100 percent employee owned, and sets a limit on executive compensation, a limit determined by a ratio of the pay scale for the lowest-paid workers in the firm. Chroma has also developed an innovative profit-sharing system for all its employees.

The other Vermont business to receive this prestigious award, Seventh Generation, is a producer of cleaning and home care products in Burlington, VT. This impressive firm truly challenges its employees to not only participate in all aspects of the company's operations, but also to take the company's mission of positive change and apply it to the outside world. Employees can apply for committee-approved paid sabbaticals in order to participate in philanthropic endeavors. To foster companywide professional development, Seventh Generation combines

teambuilding with cross-functional communication so employees gain perspective on the company's big picture operations and goals. Through these professional opportunities and many other policies, employees work outside of the box and come to share the mission of the company.

Perhaps not all companies can adopt every strategy of these two industry leaders, but we should recognize the value of their business models. Both Chroma and Seventh Generation go above and beyond the duty of an employer, and our entire economy benefits from the investment they make in training the best employees possible. I urge every American company—indeed every lawmaker in Congress—to consider the lessons we can take from these Most Democratic Workplaces. Improving job training and developing human resources is important, especially in our current challenging economy; at the same time, investment in workers creates a lasting benefit that lays the foundation for a strong future.

Treating workers with dignity and respect, enabling them to not only develop their capacities, but participate in decisionmaking, is essential to creating democratic and productive workplaces.

Mr. President, I commend Chroma Technology and Seventh Generation for a job very well done and to congratulate them on their selection as a 2009 Most Democratic Workplace.●

HONORING MICRO TECHNOLOGIES

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, in our present economic situation, small businesses are finding it increasingly difficult to maintain their current operations, let alone expand their facilities, add new employees, or make significant improvements. Despite that, some firms are attempting to move forward on planned expansions, hoping to see a greater return on their investment in the future. I rise today to recognize Micro Technologies, a small company in my home State of Maine that is pushing ahead to expand its business and bring new jobs to Midcoast Maine.

Founded in 1996, Micro Technologies, located in the rural town of Richmond, serves a very specialized niche in the world of science. Focusing on aquatic animal health, Micro Technologies provides critical research and testing, diagnostics, and veterinary services related to the health of various aquatic marine species to a wide range of clients, from government agencies to small farms. The company presently has 13 employees, most of whom are graduates of Maine universities and colleges. Approved by Department of Agriculture, USDA, for export testing, Micro Technologies works with companies across the United States, Central and South America, as well as Europe.

The company's innovative research aids scientists in their quest to explain and solve a plethora of complicated health problems of aquatic animals,

from common finfish like salmon and cod, to bivalves such as oysters and clams, to crustaceans like the Maine lobster. For instance, Micro Technologies' work has centered on studying viruses that affect shrimp and the causes of shell disease among lobsters. Additionally, the company tests various species for the presence of harmful viruses, ensuring that firms involved in the shipment of these species have the safest product possible. This, in turn, promotes expedient shipping, and reduces negative environmental impacts.

While the current economic insecurity poses problems to businesses large and small, Micro Technologies is moving forward on a plan to expand its facilities, add employees, and broaden the scope of its work. The company recently received a \$200,000 grant from the Community Development Block Grant Program, which is aimed at helping communities across the country build affordable housing and retain businesses seeking to grow. Richmond's full board of selectmen unanimously endorsed the company's proposal before submitting the application to the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development, which approved the grant. Partnering with the town of Richmond, Micro Technologies will use this grant to make renovations to its existing facility, purchase a nearby building, add seven quality new positions, and expand its manufacturing capabilities. Micro Technologies also hopes to begin an apprenticeship program to introduce students interested in science to the unique work the company does.

American entrepreneurs have strengthened our country and its economy in good times and bad. As Micro Technologies seeks to grow, it will provide a positive impact on the local community as well as the aquatic animal health industry, which is crucial in Maine. I wish everyone at Micro Technologies best wishes and much success in their planned expansion.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:10 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Zapata, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 39. An act to repeal section 10(f) of Public Law 93-531, commonly known as the "Bennett Freeze".

The message also announced that the House has passed the following joint resolution, without amendment:

S.J. Res. 8. Joint resolution providing for the appointment of David M. Rubenstein as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 388. An act to assist in the conservation of cranes by supporting and providing, through projects of persons and organizations with expertise in crane conservation,